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REASON(S)

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Control: 22889

Rec'd: AUGUST 30, 1961
8:23 PM

(943) JT

Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 371, AUGUST 30, 9 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 371, BONN 329; INFORMATION PARIS 259, LONDON 250, MOSCOW 244, POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

REFERENCE: DEPTTEL 213 BERLIN, 488 BONN; BERLIN TEL 115. DEPT, 99 BONN.

CONCUR IN GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF

DANGERS OF MORE SERIOUS DISTURBANCES EAST GERMANY. WHILE WE AGREE THAT MORE SERIOUS TROUBLE CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RULED OUT, WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY IN CURRENT CONDITIONS. CONTINUING MASSIVE EXERCISE OF ENTIRE REPRESSIVE MACHINERY OF EAST GERMAN STATE APPARATUS IS KEEPING ZONE POPULATION QUIET AND INTIMIDATED. ECONOMIC SITUATION ALSO NOT SUFFICIENTLY DISRUPTED BY MANPOWER MOBILIZATION MEASURES TO CREATE ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF UNREST AT PRESENT TIME. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD POSTULATE THAT EAST REGIME AWARE OF DANGERS THEY WOULD FACE WITH ANY DRASTIC WORSENING OF ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL FOR AND RECEIVE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC HELP FROM OTHER WARSAW BLOC STATES.

BERLIN SECTOR BOUNDARY INCIDENTS ALSO UNLIKELY IN OUR VIEW TO LEAD TO SERIOUS OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE WITHIN EAST BERLIN, CONSIDERING VERY SIZEABLE FORCES EAST KEEPING UNDER ARMS TO COW POPULATION IN EAST BERLIN. SECTOR BOUNDARY INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEST BERLINERS AND VOPOS REMAIN POSSIBILITY, BUT THESE NOT LIKELY TO LEAD TO OUTBREAKS WITHIN EAST BERLIN ITSELF EXCEPT IN UNLIKELY EVENTUALITY THAT PARTICIPATION BY WEST BERLINERS IN SUCH INCIDENTS SO LARGE AS TO SWAMP TEMPORARILY EAST ZONE ARMED CONTINGENTS AT SECTOR BORDER.

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-2- 371, AUGUST 30, 9 PM, FROM: BERLIN

SUPPOSITION THAT LOCAL INHABITANTS AT INTER/ZONAL BORDERS MIGHT SEEK TO BREAK ACROSS BORDER STRIKES US AS MOST IMPROBABLE, IF NOT ENTIRELY TO BE EXCLUDED, AT TIME WHEN EAST'S MOBILIZATION MEASURES ARE AT NEW HIGH OF STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS, AND WHEN NEW MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO EXCLUDE PEOPLE FROM FIVE KILOMETER ZONAL BORDER AREAS.

WHILE PRESENT EAST ZONE DRIVE TO BRING MORE AND MORE MEN INTO EAST REGIME ARMED FORCES CONSTITUTES MEASURE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF 1953-STYLE UPRISING, IN CONTEXT OF SEMI-MOBILIZATION MEASURES OF SOVS WE BELIEVE THAT ALL SIGNS IN EAST GERMANY SUGGEST THAT REAL DANGER FOR WEST IN PRESENT SITUATION MAY BE EAST REGIME'S DECISION TO RISK POSSIBLE ENGAGEMENT WITH WESTERN ALLIES OVER BERLIN ACCESS AND NOT THE MUCH SMALLER DANGER OF SOVZONE UPRISING LEADING TO INVOLUNTARY OR UNPLANNED WESTERN INVOLVEMENT WITH SOVIET OR SOVZONE FORCES.

TO SUM UP: POLICY CONCLUSION WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW FROM FOREGOING IS THAT THERE IS NOT CITUVIAIOUS* POSSIBILITY OF 1953 - STYLE UPRISING IN EAST GERMANY AND THAT WESTERN ALLIED SHOULD NOT ALLOW REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH UPRISING TO INHIBIT THEM FROM TAKING NECESSARY ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN WEST BECAUSE OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CONCERN THAT SUCH MEASURES COULD STIMULATE OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE IN EAST GERMANY.

LIGHTNER

ELP/22

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